

CLAIMS:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in this application:

What is claimed is:

1 to 30(cancelled).

31(newly presented). A model based controller comprising:

a development environment comprising at least one recipe for a process, each said process defined by a plurality of models, with each said model corresponding to at least one process step within said recipe;

an execution environment in operative communication with said development environment, and which execution environment comprises an execution platform capable of executing a recipe from said development environment;

a coordination environment in operative communication with said execution environment and, through said execution environment, with said development environment, and which coordination environment coordinates information flow from said execution environment, and through said execution environment, said development environment and said model;

a control level in operative communication with said coordination environment and, through said coordination environment, with said execution environment and said development environment, and in operative communication with at least one controller which is capable of controlling at least one component in the execution of at least one process step as defined by said model and communicated by said coordination environment;

and wherein, said controller sends a control command corresponding to a process step defined by said model communicated to said controller from said model within said development environment through said execution environment and through said coordination environment, to said component, and said component sends a component information element to said controller, which component information element is communicated through said coordination environment to said execution environment in which the performance of said process step may be varied in accordance with said component information element.

32(newly presented). The model based controller of Claim 31, wherein the coordination of said model with said controller comprises a data flow between said model and said controller.

33(newly presented). The model based controller of Claim 31, wherein said controller is adapted to control a plurality of said at least one components.

34(newly presented). The model based controller of Claim 31, wherein said development environment further comprises a recipe generator communicatively coupled to said plurality of models, and comprising means to add or amend recipes.

35(newly presented). The model based controller of Claim 31, further comprising at least one server being communicatively coupled to said coordination environment.

36(newly presented). The model based controller of Claim 31, further comprising at least one server being communicatively coupled to said development environment and to said plurality of models.

37(newly presented). The model based controller of Claim 31, wherein said coordination environment comprises a server.

38(newly presented). The model based controller of Claim 31, wherein said execution environment further comprises computing resources for real-time control of an execution mode.

39(newly presented). The model based controller of Claim 38, wherein said execution environment further comprises means to display the execution of said process.

39(newly presented). The model based controller of Claim 38, wherein said execution environment further comprises means to monitor and control said process.

40(newly presented). The model based controller of Claim 31, wherein said at least one component comprises an operative component selected from the group consisting of a valve, a sensor, and a motor.

41(newly presented). The model based controller of Claim 31, wherein said at least one controller comprises a programmable logic controller.

42(newly presented). The model based controller of Claim 41, wherein said coordination environment further comprises code for enabling communication.

43(newly presented). The model based controller of Claim 42, wherein said coordination environment further comprises code for modifying at least one recipe associated with said controller.

44(newly presented). The model based controller of Claim 43, wherein said code is responsive to at least one of said models.

45(newly presented). The model based controller of Claim 31, wherein said execution environment further comprises at least one interface adapted to present information indicative of one of said models and said at least one component to a user.

46(newly presented). The model based controller of Claim 45, further comprising code for enabling said user to employ said interface to modify said model.

47(newly presented). A method of controlling a process, using a model based controller comprising:

a development environment comprising at least one recipe for a process, each said process defined by a plurality of models, with each said model corresponding to at least one process step within said recipe;

an execution environment in operative communication with said development environment, and which execution environment comprises an execution platform capable of executing a recipe from said development environment;

a coordination environment in operative communication with said execution environment and, through said execution environment, with said development environment, and which coordination environment coordinates information flow from said execution environment, and through said execution environment, said development environment and said model;

a control level in operative communication with said coordination environment and, through said coordination environment, with said execution environment and said

development environment, and in operative communication with at least one controller which is capable of controlling at least one component in the execution of at least one process step as defined by said model and communicated by said coordination environment;

and wherein, said controller sends a control command corresponding to a process step defined by said model communicated to said controller from said model within said development environment through said execution environment and through said coordination environment, to said component, and said component sends a component information element to said controller, which component information element is communicated through said coordination environment to said execution environment in which the performance of said process step may be varied in accordance with said component information element;

which method comprises the steps of:

selecting a recipe associated with a process having at least one process step;

generating a model associated with each process step within said process;

issuing at least one control command associated with each said model, which control command is communicated by said at least one controller to said at least one component;

sending, by said at least one component, responsively to said at least one control command, of at least one component information element to said at least one controller; and

communicatively coordinating each said model with the at least one controller, wherein said at least one control command is generated in accordance with the at least one process step, and wherein the at least one process step is varied in accordance with said at least one component information element.

48(newly presented). A computer-readable medium, carrying thereon at least one sequence of instructions for controlling a physical process, wherein the execution of said at least one sequence of instructions by at least one processor in communication with at least one controller and at least one component creates a model based controller comprising:

a development environment comprising at least one recipe for a process, each said process defined by a plurality of models, with each said model corresponding to at least one process step within said recipe;

an execution environment in operative communication with said development environment, and which execution environment comprises an execution platform capable of executing a recipe from said development environment;

a coordination environment in operative communication with said execution environment and, through said execution environment, with said development environment, and which coordination environment coordinates information flow from said execution environment, and through said execution environment, said development environment and said model;

a control level in operative communication with said coordination environment and, through said coordination environment, with said execution environment and said development environment, and in operative communication with at least one controller which is capable of controlling at least one component in the execution of at least one process step as defined by said model and communicated by said coordination environment;

and wherein, said controller sends a control command corresponding to a process step defined by said model communicated to said controller from said model within said development environment through said execution environment and through said coordination environment, to said component, and said component sends a component information element to said controller, which component information element is communicated through said coordination environment to said execution environment in which the performance of said process step may be varied in accordance with said component information element;

and permits the at least one processor to perform the steps of:

selecting a recipe associated with a process having at least one process step;

generating a model associated with each process step within said process;

issuing at least one control command associated with each said model, which control command is communicated by said at least one controller to said at least one component;

sending, by said at least one component, responsively to said at least one control command, of at least one component information element to said at least one controller; and

communicatively coordinating each said model with the at least one controller, wherein said at least one control command is generated in accordance with the at least one process step, and wherein the at least one process step is varied in accordance with said at least one component information element.